

## **Office of State Fire Marshal:**

### **THE OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL JOHN C. DEAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

The primary function of the State Fire Marshal is to protect lives and property from fire. It is the duty of the State Fire Marshal to enforce all laws, ordinances and rules directed toward and concerned with the prevention and containment of fire and the protection of life and property. The State Fire Marshal is responsible for the suppression of arson and the investigation of cause, origin and the circumstances of fires. In addition, the Fire Marshal has under his domain, the storage, sale and use of combustibles, flammables and explosives. Building safety and fire prevention efforts responsibilities include such focus areas as the installation, maintenance or sale of automatic and other fire alarm systems and fire extinguishing systems; the construction, maintenance and regulation of fire escapes; as well as the adequacy of means of egress in case of fire from buildings.

The Division of State Fire Prevention was created in 1937 to combat an increasing number of fraudulent insurance claims resulting from set fires. Since then there has been a substantial growth in the areas of responsibility of the State Fire Marshal's Office, which replaced the Division of State Fire Prevention in 1972. The scope of statutory authority has broadened to include a number of activities related to life safety as well as fire prevention.

The programs of the State Fire Marshal have primary goals of:

1. Investigation of the cause and origin of fires and explosions;
2. Arson investigation, evidence gathering and case preparation for possible prosecution;
3. Regulate, permit and inspect for the use of explosives, fireworks and certain flammable liquids;
4. Inspect approximately 25 different types of buildings and facilities with the primary focus to enforce life safety codes and standards;

5. Review plans to issue permits for construction and alteration of public buildings, handicap accessibility, installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems; installation of above ground fuel storage tanks, amusement rides, and self-service gas stations;
6. Conduct and offer specialized training for trade professionals, care givers, code enforcement officials, and fire and law enforcement professionals; and
7. Coordinate efforts of specialty subject areas such as the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Task Force.